



New Pathways to Enterprise September Progress Report

Thank you for your generous support!

We are deeply grateful for your sustaining support for 2021. Your donation is especially significant this year. Even though our training programs are on pause due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are making significant strides forward with our Coconut Vinegar Micro-processing initiative on Negros Island. Likewise, we continue planning for a Marketplace with Bakery on Samar Island. (More details on reverse side.) Also, we are keen to begin our Livestock Integrated Food Enterprise (LIFE) project on Camiguin Island as soon as conditions permit. New Pathways has raised all the funds required for the first group of 20 women to receive LIFE skills training, and for construction and stocking of their LIFE Food Houses, complete with vegetable seedlings, baby chicks, and required materials. We are proud to be working in partnership with the Camiguin government.

However, our friends in the Philippines are still struggling with the darkest days of the pandemic. Our local manager on Negros Island tells us the number of cases is spiking again due to the Delta variant.

“Economic suffering has hit new records all over the country. Poverty, hunger, and joblessness all reached new levels not seen in 30 years of surveys...Poverty now afflicts one-half of Filipino families, and another one-third feel they are on the poverty borderline.” (Surveys of suffering, inquirer.net, 10/10/20). *Of particular concern, the Philippine hunger index has risen to over 30% of Philippine families, the highest level in 2 decades.*

New Pathways’ Response to the Pandemic Crisis: *Food for Your Table* for 330 Families

In early 2020 we optimistically thought that Covid-19 would be vanquished by the end of the year. This spring we realized it would not be possible to resume business as usual with our training and business start-up programs until later this year, or more likely in 2022. So, we have pivoted toward meeting basic needs as we did in 2020. Due to the current crisis, New Pathways is shifting its 2021 program strategy to help hundreds of New Pathways’ participants and their families secure food for their tables. Our 2021 Pandemic Relief and Recovery (PRRP) project, *Food for Your Table*, will provide 10 kilos of rice, groceries, and other essentials to families in the Philippines. New Pathways’ local teams will manage grocery purchases and distribution. We are delighted that Rowan University Philippine American Coalition students have volunteered to help raise funds for this project again this year. Last year RUPAC contributed \$4,000 to the 2020 PRRP project.

Despite the challenges brought on by the pandemic, we are ready and able to resume our livelihood training programs as soon as restrictions are lifted. Some of our participants have received their vaccinations, and we hope the majority will be able to do so soon. We will keep you informed as we progress.

Warm regards,

Christine Nielsen
President

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Your donations have a mighty impact on nutrition!

Although New Pathways has paused livelihood training programs due to pandemic health and safety issues, we are moving forward with investments for two major nutrition-based projects that do not require group interactions during the pre-launch phase. *Your donations are making these projects a reality.*

Micro-processing business for coconut vinegar fortification

We aim to reduce iron deficiency anemia in the Philippines, where 50% are iron deficient.

Through a joint project with the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Food Sciences Department, based on New Pathways' sponsored field research, we will open a micro-processing facility for production of iron-fortified coconut vinegar. Why coconut vinegar? It is a popular condiment for cooking and dipping, even among the poor. Post-pandemic, local women will receive training as owners and operators of this micro-business.



Building renovated for micro-processing plant



Future trainees showing coconut wine in fermentation process



Ms. Meriam Alo, 2018 graduate of University of the Philippines, Bachelor of Food Science Degree, serves as local technical advisor.

Marketplace business with bakery, fresh produce, and fashion

Nutrition entrepreneurs on Samar Island are keen to launch the KASAMA (United) Marketplace. Over the past two years this group of women has achieved a reputation for raising nutritious chickens and vegetables. Post-pandemic they will expand their business to meet growing demand for affordable, nutritious food by baking traditional breads to complement the healthy produce grown on their farm. Several KASAMA members who chose sewing as their livelihood, will have a location for displaying and selling their creations.

